(c) whether other persons are working on the posts in place of posts reserved for Scheduled caste and Scheduled trible ;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and designation-wise ; and

(e) the concrete steps taken to clear the entire backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Pollution by Cement Factories

2177. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted into the pollution emanating from the cement factories in Mahdya Pradesh ;

(b) if so, whether the report has been submitted in this regard ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Madhya Pradesh Polluction Control Board conducts regular inspection and air monitoring of cement industries in the State. The Board has selected cement units located near Nayagaon (Mandsaur), Damoh and Maihar-Satna for an indepth study. Under this study field data collection, source and ambient air monitoring have been conducted so far. The study is in progress.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In case any such industry fails to meet the prescribed standards, action is taken against the defaulting unit as per the provisions of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[English]

Missing of Foodgrains from FCI Godowns

2178. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :
SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousand of tonnes of wheat and rice worth crores of rupees are missing from the Food Corporation of India Godowns as apeared in the 'Pioneer' dated July 3, 1997 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantity and cost of missing of rice stock ;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard ;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) :(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Due to certain discrepancies in the figures of stock position maintained by the Government *vis-a-vis* the Food Corporation of India, the Government is conducting an exercise to reconcile stock figures. The discrepancy is reportedly owing to the fact that the Central Pool stocks are held by FCI and State Governments and their agencies. A Special Audit has also been ordered by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, which is scheduled to be completed by 30th September, 1997.

Production in Farms Subsidy

2179. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farm subsidy began in early 1980s in the country ;

(b) if so whether the fram subsidy has provided more pains and less gains since its inception;

(c) whether the policy of increasing the subsidy is bad for both the economy and policies ;

(d) if so, the total subsidy being provided at present to the farm sector ;

(e) whether any concrete measures are being considered by the Government to reduce the subsidy on the farm products;

(f) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard ;

(h) if so, the details thereof ; and

(i) if not, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken and the extent to which the farm subsidy is being reduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The subsidies for farm sector had begun even earlier to 1980s. However, its quantum increased substantially in early 1980s. The subsidies for farm sector had been one of the main factors responsible for increasing agricultural production and procutivity by motivating the farmers to adopt improved techniques of production and modern inputs. This has helped the country to come out of the foodgrain shortages, reduce imports and attain self-sufficiency. However, a large and dis-proportionate subsidies not only divert scrace resources from productive investment but also result in misuse and over utilisation of the resources.

(d) Major agricultural input subsidies given to farmers are fertilisers, irrigation, power and credit subsidy. Direct subsidy on Urea is given by the Central Government to manufacturers of fertilisers to make available the fertilisers at reduced rates to the farmers. Urea is subsidised and sold at a uniform price of Rs. 3660 per tonne throughout the country. in addition, the Department of Agriculture and Coopertion is implementing, from Rabi 1992-93, a scheme of Concession on Sale of Phosphatic and potassic (P & K) Fertilisers to the farmers on the following :

Product	Rs. per Tonne rate of concession from 1.4.997
Indigenous DAP	3750
Imported DAP	2250
MOP	2000
SSP	6000
Indigenous Complexes	1149-3320

The provision in R.E. 1996-97 and in B.E.1997-98 for the payment of subsidy on Urea and concession on P & K fertilisers is given below :

Rs. in crores

	Subsidy on Urea	Concession on P&K Fertilisers
R.E. 1996-97	6093	1674
B.E. 1997-98	7190	2000

Besides above, subsidies on irrigation and power are given indirectly by the State Governments charging lower rates than that of actual costs in the attached Statement.

(e) There is no proposal under consideration to reduce the subsidy for the farm sector.

(f) to (i) Question do not arise.

Statement

Details of Subsidies to Agriculture Sector

(Rs. Crores)

Item	1992-93 (Actuals)	1993-94 (Actuals)	1994-95 (Actuals)	1995-96 (Actuals)	1996-97@ (RE)	1997-98+ (BE)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Subsidy to Agriculture Sector through inputs						
1. fertiliser (Total)	5796	4562	5769	6735	7767	9190
1.1 Indigenous fertiliser	4800	3800	4075	4300	4743	5240
1.2 Imported fertiliser	996	762	1166	1935	1350	1950

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.3 Sale of decontrolled fertiliser with Concession to farmers	-	-	528	500	1674	2000
2. Electricity*	1927	2400	2423	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
3. Irrigation**	5235	5872	6685	75234£	N.A.	N.A.

Source : 1. Fertilisers : Expenditure Budget 1997-98, Vol.I of Central Government.
2. Electricity and irrigation : Central Statistical Organisation.

Note : N.A. Not available.
* Electricity includes all subsidies to electricity Boards and Corporations. Separate estimates of Electricity subsidy accountable exclusively to agricultural sector is not available.
** The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low as a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as imputed irrgation subsidy.
£ Quick estimates.
@ Revised estimates.
\+ Budget estimates.

Price of Urea

2180. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to enhance the price of Urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend any incentives agriculturists in case the price of fertilizers is increased ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Unorganised Voluntary Organisations

2181. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received applications for recognition from certain unrecognised voluntary organisations functioning in the field of human welfare in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which recognition is likely to be accorded to them ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Ministry of Welfare have not system of according recognition to voluntary organisations for purposes of release of grants in aid for implementation of welfare schemes.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Import of Inferior Wheat

2182. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wheat imported by FCI from Argentina and STC from Canada has been found of inferior quality ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and loss suffered as a result thereof, separately;

(c) the details of foreign exchange involved in this deal;

(d) whether the quantity of wheat imported has been found unfit for human consumption;

(e) if so, the details thereof ;

(f) the extent to which this wheat has been distributed to the Fair Price Shops ;

(g) whether cases have come to the notice where the quality of wheat imported was different to the quality of wheat contracted for ; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?